(b) whether the DGCA has any permanent arrangement for the regular technical check-ups for over all conditions of the flights; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) As on date, 1147 flights are being operated by Indian carriers on daily basis as per the details given below:

Air India-31, Indian Airlines-254, Air India Express-6, Alliance Air-11, Jet Airways-335, Sahara Airlines-1106, Air Deccan-229, Kingfisher Airlines-96, Spicejet-48, Go Air-21 and Paramount Airways-20.

(b) and (c) All the aircrafts are subjected to regular inspection as per the requirements of aircraft manufacturers contained in maintenance Planning Document. Such inspections include pre-flight inspection, transit inspection, daily inspection and higher maintenance inspections by aircraft maintenance engineers. All these inspections are approved for each type of aircraft and regular spot checks are carried out by DGCA officers to ensure the compliance.

In addition, surveillance checks are carried out for operators to ensure their capability and their adherence to the requirements.

Complaints against private airlines

716. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaints regarding functioning of private airlines, especially customer service;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against those airlines providing inadequate services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Complaints are received from passengers regarding missing/lost baggage, refund of tickets in case of delays/cancellations, denial of facilities like wheel chair, meals/snacks in case of delayed flights, etc.

(c) All the airlines have been advised that they should display on their respective websites various facilities offered to the passengers, both free and chargeable, in a conspicuous manner so that passengers are aware of these before booking air tickets. Operators are also advised to maintain schedule integrity.

Increase in flying age of pilots

717. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently increased flying age of pilots from 60 to 65 years subject to certain conditions;

(b) if so, the details of conditions subject to which Government would enhance flying age of pilots;

(c) the efforts Government are making to upgrade IGRUA to increase output of trainees from present 40 trainees per year;

(d) to what extent flying training institutes in Andhra Pradesh like Andhra Pradesh Aviation Academy, Flytech Academy and Wings Aviation help in increasing flying trainees in the country; and

(e) the reasons for not setting up of more flying institutions in the country to meet its requirements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have amended the Aircraft Rules, 1937 to allow pilots with valid licenses to utilize the privileges of their licenses to engage in commercial air transport operations upto the age of 65 years, subject to medical fitness and certain other conditions. No persons holding pilot's licence issued under the Aircraft Rules and attained the age of 60 years shall act as Pilot-in-Command or Co-Pilot of an aircraft engaged in Commercial Air Transport Operations unless it is operated in multi-crew environment and the other pilot is less than 60 years of age.

(c) The Government propose to upgrade Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi, Rae Bareli at an estimated cost of Rs. 57 crores, approximately. This includes induction of single engine and multi engine aircraft, rebuilding of helicopters, modernisation of runway, construction